

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PASS-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00
OMB-01 /036 W
-----091506 170521Z /15

R 161305Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2818

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0883

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, EWWT, ECON, QA

SUBJECT: HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS SACKED IN ANTI-CORRUPTION DRIVE

1. SUMMARY: DURING PAHT WEEK AT LEAST THREE DIRECTORS OF DE-
PARTMENTS IN GOQ MINISTRIES HAVE BEEN SACKED. INFORMED SOURCES
SAY OTHERS SOON TO FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

2. DIRECTORS OF PORT, LAND REGISTRATION AND DOHA MUNICIPALITY
DEPARTMENTS WERE FIRED DURING WEEK STARTING JULY 9 AND REPLACED
BY FORMER DEPUTIES. WE HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS FROM SOURCES
IN GOQ THAT DIRECTORS OF WATER DPARTMENT, CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT
AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT HAVE ALSO BEEN FIRED OR ARE ABOUT TO

BE RELIEVED.

3. ALTHOUGH NO PUBLIC ACCUSATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE, MOST OF OUR
SOURCES IN GOQ INDICATE THAT FIRINGS ARE PART OF ANTI-CORRUPTION
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CAMPAIGN AND THAT PROXIMATE CAUSE WAS SERIES OF FRAUDULENT LAND
DEALS INVOLVING FALSIFICATION AND SALE OF DEEDS TO LANDS BELONG-
ING TO FORMER AMIR AND MEMBERS OF HIS BRANCH OF THE AL THANI
FAMILY. OTHER SOURCES IN GOQ POINT TO CORRUPT PRACTICES IN
INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS AS CAUSE OF DISMISSALS AND POSSIBLE
FUTURE DISMISSALS.

4. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME DEFENDERS (IN PRIVATE) OF OFFICIALS WHO HAVE BEEN FIRED AND OF THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE MENTIONED AS ABOUT TO BE FIRED. DEFENDERS HAVE ALL TOLD US THAT ALTHOUGH OFFICIALS MAY BE INVOLVED IN CORRUPTION, THEY ARE STILL AMONG THE BEST QATARI ADMINISTRATORS AND THAT THEIR TALENTS WILL BE LOST TO GOQ AT TIME WHEN THEY ARE BADLY NEEDED. SOME HAVE SAID THAT THEY DOUBT THE VERACITY OF STORIES OF CORRUPTION, BUT THAT IF THEY ARE TRUE IT WAS NO MORE THAN BUSINESS AS USUAL IN GULF COUNTRIES.

5. EXPLANATION FOR TIMING OF FIRINGS GIVEN BY ONE SOURCE IS THAT MOVE AT THIS TIME INCREASES PRESTIGE OF NEWLY APPOINTED HEIR APPARENT, SHAYKH HAMAD BIN KHALIFA AL THANI, WHOSE NAME IS BEING ASSOCIATED WITH ANTI-CORRUPTION DRIVE. ANOTHER EQUALLY LIKELY EXPLANATION OF TIMING IS THAT GOQ, HAVING TAKEN ACTION ON QUESTION OF SUCCESSION, IS NOW FREE TO HANDLE PROBLEM OF CORRUPTION. ADDITIONAL FACTOR IN TIMING IS, UNDOUBTEDLY, ABSENCE OF MANY OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL QATARIS ON LONG SUMMER HOLIDAYS AND CONSEQUENT EASING OF GOVERNMENT ABILITY TO REMOVE OFFICIALS.

6. ALTHOUGH TOO EARLY TO GAUGE EFFECT OF CHANGE OF DEPT DIRECTORS ON OUR DAY-TO-DAY WORK WITH GOQ, WE FORESEE NO MAJOR PROBLEMS. ONE OF THE THREE NEW DEPT DIRECTORS, ALI BIN RASHID AL KHATIR, DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES (AND U. OF WISCONSIN GRADUATE) HAS ALREADY APPROACHED EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING U.S. FIRMS

SPECIALIZING IN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND CITY MANAGEMENT
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(SEPTTEL).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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